

ENERGY TIDBITS

February 2005

State Energy Program Special Project Grants have been announced by the U.S. Dept. of Energy. The Energy Office will compete with other states in a number of project areas related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Individuals are not eligible. Private and public organizations are eligible. The project areas include Clean Cities, Industrial Technology Outreach, Building Codes, Rebuild America, Building America, Solar Micro Inverters, Tall Tower Wind Measurements, Biomass, Integration with Air Quality Issues, and Federal Energy Management Program. The project descriptions will be posted at <http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice> after the solicitation is issued in early February. The state deadline will be in early April and the federal deadline is April 22. If interested, check our web site in mid February.

Large Scale Photovoltaic Demonstration Project Grants are available from the Energy Office to install and demonstrate a new 10 kW or larger PV system. Only public and non-profit organizations are eligible. A grant of \$60,000 but not to exceed 90% of PV system equipment, material and supplies costs is offered to prospective applicants. A total of \$180,000 is available. Projects must be completed within 12 months of grant award. Proposals are due by March 31, 2005. To receive a copy of the Request For Proposal contact John Trieloff at 517-241-6224 or jjtriel@michigan.gov.

2005 DTE Energy Conference and Expo will be held at Laurel Manor in Livonia on February 15. Commercial and industrial businesses will learn about alternative energy and best practices for improving productivity and energy efficiency. Join speakers Robert Stemple, Energy Conversion Devices, Joseph Bibeau, General Motors and others for this info-packed one-day conference (<http://www.mydteenergy.com/business/energyConference/index.do>). The meeting cost is \$50. www.mydteenergy.com

ASHRAE Professional Energy Code Seminar: Standard 90.1-2001 will be held on February 16, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at Lawrence Technological University, Lear Auditorium. The 90.1 standard is the energy code for commercial buildings in Michigan. Registration fee is \$65. Contact: Tequisha Crockett at 248-336-2199 or tequishac@thermalnetics.com

Grandville Public Schools has made steady progress in applying ENERGY STAR to their buildings. This fall, Cummings Elementary and South Elementary became the 4th and 5th Grandville schools to receive the ENERGY STAR. Grandville has replaced inefficient lights while delamping to save a total of \$25,000/year. The district has installed sensors to cut both light and HVAC use in unoccupied classrooms. Watt misers were installed to reduce light and compression use by vending machines during low use periods. More: Jack Timmer, Grandville P.S. Director of Operations, 616-254-6535.

Building a Solar Panel System Workshop will be held at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings on Feb. 12, 9:00-1:00 and at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford on Feb. 26, 9:00-1:00. All supplies will be provided. The PV system built in the workshop can power anything that uses no more than 300 watts. Pre-registration and payment are required and the workshop is limited. Cost is \$288. Contact <http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org> or 269-721-4190 or uheac@earthlink.net or 248-693-1021.

Wind Energy Tutorial can be found at http://www.awea.org/faq/tutorial/wwt_basics.html.

Rebuild Michigan is offering an EnergySmart Schools financial incentive for any public K-12 district in Michigan to implement an energy education project during the 2004-2005 school year. Go to <http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice> for more details.

Creative Change Educational Solutions moved into new offices in Ypsilanti that feature passive solar design, energy efficient windows, recycled-content carpeting, and rain barrels to collect water for the surrounding gardens. <http://www.creativechange.net>

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Regional Seminar on Sustainability will be held at Eastern Michigan University on March 4, 9:00-4:00. Topics include Energy & Our Communities, UM Solar Decathlon, LTU Zero Energy Homes, Daylighting, Zeeland HS Case Study, Dana Building Case Study, Historic Preservation, and Green Tech U. For further information contact jason@environmentalhouse.org.

Zero Energy Home Design Competition Awards were presented to five Lawrence Technological University students on January 13. First Place went to Jessica Slomka, Second Place went to Steven Bugyi, Third Place went to Paul Eland, and Honorable Mentions went to Michael Oranchak and Anne Shishkovsky. The students had participated in a class taught by Christina Snyder. Information is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice> under Residential.

Improving Steam System Performance: A Sourcebook for Industry helps identify energy and performance opportunities. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/35682.pdf>

Pennsylvania Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act provides that, within 15 years, 8% of the state's electricity must come from solar PV, wind, low-impact hydro, geothermal, biologically-derived methane gas, fuel cells, biomass or coal mine methane, and 10% must come from waste coal, distributed generation, demand-side management, large hydro, municipal solid waste, by-products of wood manufacturing, and integrated combination gasification technology.

U.P. Energy Star Home Case Study has been updated. Check it out at <http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice> under Residential.

Better Ideas for Buildings: Emerging Technologies that Save Energy, Money, and the Environment from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy can be found at http://www.ems.org/nws/2004/12/06/better_ideas_for

Consumers Energy has been directed by the Michigan Public Service Commission to file an application seeking approval of its Renewable Resources Program (RRP) tariffs by March 31 and to issue a request for proposals by that same date so that commercial operation of the first renewable resources is in place by the end of 2005. Noting that Consumers Energy expects the renewable resource fund to support approximately 100 MW of wind energy or 75 MW of landfill gas production, the MPSC said it expects these quantities to be sufficient to provide developers the opportunity to achieve practical economies of scale. Therefore, the MPSC is not at this time prescribing a specific quantity to be purchased by a particular time. However, it will use as a benchmark the penetration rates achieved in green pricing programs in other states: slightly more than 1 percent of all residential customers, and for programs in operation for three or more years, an average of 2 percent.



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